



Testimonials and Quotes



2011-2012



Leading Set by Number of Practice Group Rankings (7)

Henderson Chambers since its foundation in 1954 have developed a solid reputation for excellence in both advocacy and advisory work over a wide range of practice areas and market sectors. Chambers' main force is on civil and commercial contract and tort actions, public, regulatory and disciplinary law. Members act for multinational organisations, foreign and domestic corporations, financial services organisations, government departments and agencies, local authorities, NGOs, professional bodies, and individuals in contentious and non-contentious matters. One of the first Chambers to obtain accreditation under the BarDirect scheme it remains pre-eminent in meeting the needs of lay and professional clients. Chambers draws the majority of its tenants from its pupils all of whom undertake part of their pupillage in Brussels.

CLIENT SERVICE AT THE BAR

Under the eye of "fantastic" head clerk John White, Henderson chambers has put client satisfaction at the heart of its approach to the law. This tactic has paid off, resulting in a widespread view that "Henderson Chambers' client care and management are second to none." Throughout our research familiar sentiments were voiced time and time again. The service was variously described as "brilliant", "first class," "receptive" and "by far the best." In order to each such praise, the clerks and support staff have to be genuinely proactive, realistic, responsive and friendly. Above all they have to "work together seamlessly." All at the set "always understand the details of the cases, are prepared to talk things through" and, perhaps most importantly of all, prove "very accessible right from the junior clerks through to the head of chambers." This superior service helps to develop a culture of confidence and trust that is vital to any fruitful relationship with either solicitor or client. But it is not just the clerking that has impressed: the barristers themselves are "laid-back and accommodating," and the chambers "modern and comfortable, but not too opulent." Clients also value the set's high-quality seminars, e-mail bulletins and "fantastic" training sessions.

PRODUCT LIABILITY Leading Set (1)

Henderson Chambers remains the undisputed leading set for product liability defence work. The set has devoted itself to this practice area and as a result boasts unparalleled experience and expertise across a range of commercial and consumer sectors. Sources comment that "its genuine modesty belies its strength. It's a polished set". The large stable of barristers here focus on product liability "with a hawk-like attention to detail," and attract high-profile defence briefs. Recent examples includes the fetal anti-convulsant group litigation and O'Byrne v. Aventis Pasteur. Commentators describe the individuals here as being "very accessible, right from the juniors to the most esteemed silks." The clerks come

in for praise too as "they are very organised and prepared to talk things through."

Star Performer

Charles Gibson QC (*)

Charles Gibson QC is head of chambers and regarded as "absolutely phenomenal" by peers. "He's fantastic at getting into the nitty-gritty; he takes a hands-on approach and gets involved as part of the team. It adds real confidence." Others comment on his "brilliant way with clients. He is extremely personable, very positive and optimistic, but he will also tell you it straight when something isn't going so well." He has taken a leading role in many of the largest product liability cases in recent years. Most recently he has acted for GlaxoSmithKline as defence counsel in the Seroxat litigation. Sources comment on his "excellent performances in court; he reads the judges very well and knows when it's time to fight and when to concede."

Leading Silks

Prashant Popat QC (1)

Prashant Popat is a "fine silk" who has a strong reputation defending pharmaceutical companies in litigation concerning drug products. Praised for his "meticulous attention to detail and strategic sense on cases," he is equally regarded as "very charming, articulate and an affable guy to work with." He has recently been instructed to act on several major pharmaceutical group actions including the Seroxat litigation, O'Byrne v. Aventis Pasteur and the Vioxx litigation.

Alan Dashwood QC (3)

Alan Dashwood QC is well versed in all aspects of European Law and has had involvement in some important matters in recent times including the Sabril and Seroxat litigations. He offers "timely, well-reasoned and thoroughly researched advice," according to those that use him.

Leading Juniors

Star Performer

Geraint Webb (*)

Webb receives glowing reviews from peers and clients alike for his skill inside and out of the courtroom. "He's an outstanding junior, just in a class of his own. A real 'details man' who forensically analyses the work. He is hugely impressive in court because he knows everything backwards and fights his corner well." He possesses particular expertise in defending large product liability claims against pharmaceuticals, and also handles numerous commercial product and insurance disputes. In addition to the fetal anticonvulsant litigation, he has worked on several cases concerning fire damage caused by defective lorries. Sources comment admiringly on his "mastery of complicated scientific detail and the good commercial common sense he exhibits when handling disputes". They further state that he is "academically very strong, incredibly personable and extremely hard-working."

Malcolm Sheehan (1) Malcolm Sheehan is also valued for "never being afraid to put his point across." His recent briefs on product liability issues have included claims over defective animal vaccines and also a number of cases regarding defective tyres. He also defended GlaxoSmithKline alongside other members of chambers in group litigation relating to its antidepressant drug Seroxat. Observers describe him as "terribly charming, and someone who explains things very well and puts people at ease; he's very, very good with clients."

Toby Riley-Smith (1) Toby Riley-Smith has, of late, been instructed on a broad mixture of claims concerning pharmaceutical, medical device, consumer and industrial products, and is especially sought after to defend group actions. He is "technically excellent, very genial and an impressive and effective advocate." 2010 was a busy year for the highly experienced advocate as he was involved in litigation over defective gas boosters and tumble-driers that caused fire damage. He also defended the manufacturer of a locomotive that exploded resulting in the death of two workmen.

Oliver Campbell (3) Oliver Campbell is well regarded for his "independence of thought and his performances in the line of fire." Over the last year he has balanced litigation with advising clients on major product recalls, and recently counselled a German company on the recall of 25,000 dangerously defective heavy goods vehicles. "He is absolutely tip-top and shows a deft touch in court that is as good as you'd see anywhere at the Bar."

Andrew Kinnier (3) Andrew Kinnier receives similar praise from peers, who remark upon his "amazing attention to detail and his fine understanding of difficult and tricky concepts." An expert on very technical and scientific points, he frequently confronts such issues in a product liability practice that concentrates in part on defencing pharmaceutical claims. Kinnier has acted on the Seroxat litigation and has also been advising a company on consumer and regulatory product liability issues regarding its planned advertising and supply of the Tamiflu vaccine. Those that instruct him comment on his accessibility as well as the "experience, knowledge, leadership and insight he brings to bear on a matter."

Up-and-coming individuals

James Purnell James Purnell is noted as "a capable junior" by peers. He worked extensively on the fetal anticonvulsant group action as junior counsel for the defendants.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Leading Set (1)

Henderson Chambers groups together a strong bench of experienced silks and juniors, who concentrate on health and safety but have strong complementary expertise in product liability. Members frequently lead the defence of companies involved in headline accidents, including rail crashes and large industrial explosions. "Counsel are very approachable," say clients. "It's a well-run chambers where you get very good service. The clerks are very keen to please and paperwork is turned around quickly".

Leading Silks

Roger Henderson QC (1)

Roger Henderson QC is a highly accomplished silk with an enviably broad practice of which health and safety work takes up a part. He has years of experience in the health and safety field having been involved in major health and safety inquests and prosecutions, including Buncefield. Peers note his "great court presence," adding that "he's a smooth operator who never gets flustered and never overstates things."

Prashant Popat QC (2)

Prashant Popat QC marries health and safety work with a product liability defence practice, excelling in both areas. He is highly regarded for his ability to calm clients and his strong attention to detail: "If you need to dot every 'i' and cross every 't' then he's your man.

Charles Gibson QC (3)

Charles Gibson QC is regarded as "excellent" by his peers due to his skill in court. His practice spans a mixture of environmental, commercial and health and safety litigation. He has frequently acted for rail companies and utilities.

Leading Juniors

Oliver Campbell (1)

Peers value Oliver Campbell's knowledge of the health and safety field and observe that he "has really immersed himself in the area." Sources comment that he "presents a steely façade and is very good at inspiring confidence in clients." His clarity of advice is also praised.

Toby Riley-Smith (2)

Toby Riley-Smith has many strings to his bow legally. On the health and safety front, his practice takes him all over the country defending prosecutions and appearing in inquests. A "diligent and well-prepared counsel," he has a wide range of clients from a variety of hazardous industries. He is highly regarded in the market.

Jonathan Harvey (3)

Highly regarded in the market, Jonathan Harvey, who defends companies in civil and criminal proceedings involving issues of health and safety. Harvey has particular expertise in matters of clinical negligence.

CONSUMER LAW

Leading Set (2)

Henderson Chambers has made large strides in consumer law recently and is marketing itself out as a leading set on consumer finance law in particular. The arrival of William Hibbert and Julia Smith from Gough Square Chambers in May 2011 has further enhanced its offering, and it now has several members who contribute to leading texts on consumer law. Peers say that "this area of law is complicated and is riddled with niggly little problems. The thing about Henderson Chambers is that you can be confident the barristers know what they are talking about even at a really junior level". Clients praise the "very simple, easy going and accommodating clerking" and appreciate the extras offered by the set, including seminars, training sessions and regular e-mails covering legal updates.

Leading Silks

Richard Mawrey QC (1)

Richard Mawrey QC concentrates his practice in this area on issues of consumer credit and finance. He advises banks and other lending institutions on drafting and amending their financial agreements with consumers. On the litigation front, he recently worked on *Axa v. The Funding Corporation*, defending a claim brought by an insurer against a company that sold payment protection insurance policies to consumers.

Leading Juniors

William Hibbert (1)

New addition to the set William Hibbert is regarded by peers as "a very good litigator" specialising in consumer credit and consumer protection litigation. He has acted in many cases over the years concerning the interpretation and enforcement of consumer credit legislation. He also advises creditors on drafting consumer finance agreements. He made the move to Henderson Chambers with colleague Julia Smith. Sources say they are "both people you wouldn't want to lose."

Julia Smith (1)

Julia Smith made the move to Henderson Chambers with colleague William Hibbert. Sources say they are "both people you wouldn't want to lose". Smith is highly regarded by peers for her "detailed understanding of consumer credit legislation and her ability to apply her knowledge well. She has a very sound grasp of the subject and understands how and why the law has developed over the years." "A lawyer of real intellectual depth," she has notable expertise in consumer credit regulations, and also handles advisory work and representation for the OFT on trading standards issues in the financial sector. Most recently she appeared in *Sternlight v. Barclays Bank*.

Toby Riley-Smith (2)

Toby Riley-Smith is well liked by sources. He also works on a mixture of consumer protection and consumer finance matters, acting for institutions and consumers. He has lately worked in

AXA v. The Funding Corporation. One source comments: "We see him as one of the big guns and use him on difficult and complex cases. Judges like him a lot as he's a very good advocate and very personable." Clients especially value his ability to get results in difficult circumstances, something he achieves through his keen powers of persuasion.

Denis Rosenthal (2)

Dennis Rosenthal is a former solicitor turned barrister. He has immersed himself in the consumer finance field and edits a core text in the area. He is "excellent and really first-rate," according to commentators. The focus of his practice lies in assisting institutions with the drafting of consumer credit and consumer hire agreements and advising on the same.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT Leading Set (4)

The public procurement practice at Henderson Chambers is further bolstered by its barristers' additional expertise in the areas of public law, IT and construction. The set handles all aspects of procurement law, both contentious and non-contentious, for client from the IT, environment, transport and housing sectors. It acts for a number of local authorities.

Leading Silks

Roger Henderson QC (2)

Roger Henderson QC is a prominent silk who has extensive experience of handling public procurement matters for both local authorities and public bodies. In the past year he has handled public procurement matters related to the rail and PTE franchising, waste management and disposal, and IT.

Rhodri Williams QC (3)

Rhodri Williams QC specialises in EU law and local government and administrative law. He is recognised for his "vast experience and excellent reputation," and represents local authorities and public bodies on public procurement matters.

Leading Juniors

Geraint Webb (3)

Geraint Webb's long experience of local government work sets him in good stead for public procurement matters. He also has unique expertise in IT work, and recently advised a local authority on a major information technology dispute.

Andrew Kinnier (3)

"Thorough, approachable and clear-thinking" junior Andrew Kinnier represents and advises central government departments and local authorities on procurement and state aid work. Recently, he advised the government on a number of potential procurement infringements of local council's proposed regeneration and development projects across the UK.

PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Leading Set (3)

Henderson Chambers represents professionals and their regulatory bodies across a diverse and interesting range of sectors. Medical professionals, accountants and lawyers are all catered to, and even fairground workers benefit from the Set's expertise. Commentators were quick to mention the Set's competitiveness in terms of fees and were anxious to praise John White's clerking team for providing "a helpful, seamless service."

Leading Silks

Roger Henderson QC (2)

Roger Henderson QC is widely regarded as one of the finest silks in the country and a man who adds a Midas touch to the cases he takes on. He represents professionals across a range of industries, and has featured prominently in major inquiries such as those concerning the misdeeds of Professor Sir Roy Meadow with regards to his testimony in the Sally Clark case. Henderson also had a role in the Equitable Life inquiry into accountancy practices.

Leading Juniors

Kenneth Hamer (4)

"Intelligent, hard-working and faultlessly reliable," Kenneth Hamer has distinguished himself in recent months, acting in cases before the Law Society and the GPC. He is valued by solicitors.

Adam Heppinstall (4)

"very bright" Adam Heppinstall, who provides "clear sensible advice" and brings a spirited approach to his cases. In recent months he has presented cases before the Ministry of Defence, the UK Council for Psychotherapy and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Anna Burne (4)

Anna Burne has been directly instructed by the GMC to advise on fitness to practise proceedings and human rights issues. She has also played a similar role for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England Wales, drafting new disciplinary regulations.

IT

Leading Set (3)

Specialising in large-scale systems contracts disputes. Henderson Chambers has a long history of contributing to case law in the technology field. Sources say that the "barristers at this chambers are first-rate" and have the pedigree to challenge the best in the business.

Leading Silks

Richard Mawrey QC (2)

Richard Mawrey QC is a "formidable opponent in court" who commands deep respect from his peers for his efforts in the IT market. Peerless in terms of his experience, he has been writing about and handling IT cases since the 1980s.

Extremely difficult to beat, he has recently been handling cases concerning large IT contracts for the government.

Peter Susman QC (2) Peter Susman QC, meanwhile has recently been occupied with a multimillion pound IT mediation, as well as a case involving data scraping bots.

PROPERTY (REAL ESTATE LITIGATION)

Leading Set (4) Henderson Chambers, whilst not being primarily a property set, can nevertheless boast a number of accomplished property barristers who are "very dedicated" and "can outclass the best of them." Clerking at the set is headed by John White, who solicitors report is instrumental to their long-term relationships with the set.

Leading Juniors

Jonathan Steinert (4) Jonathan Steinert is a property litigator whose practice encompasses related areas of competition and insolvency. He recently appeared in *Jones v Hollowseal*, a case which established an important point on the unilateral vacation of commercial premises.

Malcolm Sheehan (4) Specialist Malcolm Sheehan covers all areas of property law, acting for estates, developers, registered social landlords and local authorities. He is also an appointed Deputy Adjudicator to HM Land Registry.

Andrew Davies (5) Andrew Davies works across all aspects of property and related professional negligence issues, with particular expertise in easements and covenants, party wall matters and beneficial interest disputes. His recent case highlights include *Churchill v. Temple*, which addressed the construction of restrictive covenants.

EMPLOYMENT

Leading Juniors

David Brook (4) David Brook has a broad employment practice and has considerable expertise in injunctions, including those with cross-border considerations.

Patrick Green (5) Patrick Green is "an impressive lateral thinker who is able to come up with an angle on a case which no one else has spotted." One source said of him: "If you have an unwinnable case, then he is the man who can win it for you."

COMPETITION/EUROPEAN LAW

Leading Silks

Alan Dashwood QC

Alan Dashwood QC of Henderson Chambers is Professor of European Law at Cambridge and, unsurprisingly, deemed to be “someone who knows the ins and outs of black letter law better than most.” He was recently involved in Pfeiffer, a case which addressed the possibility of reliance on Article 6 of the Working Time Directive to challenge the validity of German legislation allowing on-call workers to be employed in excess of the 48-hour weekly limit.

ENVIRONMENT

Leading Silks

Lawrence West QC (2)

Common law silk Lawrence West QC is singled out for his comprehensive knowledge of environmental law, and is particularly noted for his experience of matters concerning product liability and asbestos law. Recent matters for him include advising on the application of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control regime to the activities of sewerage undertakers. He also acted in the Mesothelioma Trigger litigation, a large-scale action in connection with the liability of employers’ liability insurers for mesothelioma claims.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leading Silks

Roger Henderson QC (3)

Roger Henderson QC has appeared in much of the most significant public law, local government and regulatory litigation in the past 25 years. Recent work for him includes advising the Greater London Authority on its budget and other finance-related matters, and advising on procurement of housing and IT services for a London borough.

Richard Mawrey QC (4)

Richard Mawrey QC’s practice has a strong focus on procurement, illustrated by his recent work advising a consortium of local authorities on the procurement aspects of participating in a scheme to replace a ferry service.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Leading Silks

Roger Henderson QC (3)

Telecommunications work makes up a significant tranche of Roger Henderson QC’s multifaceted practice. One of the nation’s best-known and most accomplished silks, he is a name to fear if he’s your opponent.



Legal 500 (2011 Edition)

CONSUMER & PRODUCT LIABILITY

Top Leading Set (1)

“From the top silks through to the bright up and coming youngsters, Henderson Chambers is a pre-eminent set for product liability work.”

Leading Silks

Charles Gibson QC (*)

Charles Gibson QC is praised for his ‘leadership, integrity, vision and humility’.

Richard Mawrey QC (2)

Richard Mawrey QC is singled out in consumer law.

Peter Susman QC (4)

Peter Susman QC is singled out in consumer law.

Prashant Popat QC (4)

Prashant Popat QC recently advised GlaxoSmithKline in a high-profile group action regarding alleged injuries from anti-depressants.

Leading Juniors

Geraint Webb (1)

Geraint Webb is “certainly among the stars of the Product Liability Bar”

Oliver Campbell (1)

Oliver Campbell acted for BP in a group action brought by Colombian farmers.

Malcolm Sheehan (1)

Malcolm Sheehan encapsulates the term “a trusted adviser”.

Toby Riley-Smith (1)

Toby Riley-Smith is singled out in consumer law. Riley-Smith is “exceptionally able in his field”.

William Hibbert (2)

Is a real specialist in his field – his grasp of technical regulations is outstanding.

Andrew Kinnier (4)

Andrew is also recommended for pharmaceutical product claims.

Noel Dilworth (3)

Recommended

Andrew Davies (3)

James Purnell (4)

Recommended

Julia Smith (4)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Top Leading Set (1)

“A very reliable and solid set of chambers”, Henderson Chambers leads the way with the sheer quality of its members and superb service ethos.”

Leading Silks

Roger Henderson QC (1)

Charles Gibson QC (2)

Charles Gibson QC is “meticulous on detail and preparation, and an outstanding strategist”.

Prashant Popat QC (2)

Prashant Popat is “a real expert on health and safety cases”, whose recent work highlights include the high-profile Buncefield litigation and the Potters Bar inquest; he is “magisterial in his advocacy and exceptionally hardworking”.

Lawrence West QC (3)

Leading Juniors

Oliver Campbell (2)

Among the juniors, the “very knowledgeable and utterly dependable” Oliver Campbell acted in HSE v Marks & Spencer.

Toby Riley-Smith (2)

Toby Riley-Smith “makes it his business to know his cases better than anyone else in the courtroom”, but is also “eloquent, polite and exceptionally skilful”.

Jonathan Harvey (3)

Notable practitioner.

James Purnell (3)

“the impressive” James Purnell

Angus Withington (4)

Has an excellent legal knowledge

Andrew Kinnier (4)

BANKING AND FINANCE (INCLUDING CONSUMER CREDIT)

Leading Set (3)

Position as a leading set for consumer credit work was significantly enhanced by the arrival of William Hibbert and the ‘excellent’ Julia Smith from Gough Square Chambers

Leading Silks

Richard Mawrey QC (4)

Is a good choice for those seeking a “high-quality opinion from a barrister whose views hold some weight”

Leading Juniors

Nazeer Chowdhury (4)

Dennis Rosenthal (4)

Who despite only being called to the Bar in 2009, is also recommended for advisory matters after a long career as a partner at Berwin Leighton Paiser LLP

Toby Riley-Smith (4)

William Hibbert (4)

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PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE AND REGULATORY LAW (INCLUDING POLICE LAW)

Leading Set (3)

Leading Juniors

Kenneth Hamer (3)

Adam Heppinstall (4)

Adam Heppinstall is "calm, measured and extremely competent".

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW

Leading Set (4)

Henderson Chambers has strength in local government and procurement cases, and the clerks are "responsible and helpful". 2010 silk Rhodri Williams QC is "one of the leading counsel on procurement law in the country".

Leading Silks

Richard Mawrey QC (4)

Leading Juniors

Andrew Kinnier (4)

Provides "constructive and innovative solutions to procurement problems".

Geraint Webb (4)

IT

Leading Set (4)

Well known for its work on local authorities' IT disputes, Henderson Chambers' reputation continues to flourish.

Leading Silks

Richard Mawrey QC (3)

Richard Mawrey QC appeared in St Albans City and District Council v. International Computers Ltd.

Peter Susman QC (2)

Peter Susman QC acted for the claimant in TH Baker & Co Ltd v. SDK Jewellers Ltd in the TCC.

Leading Juniors

Geraint Webb (3)

Geraint Webb is highly regarded.

PROPERTY LITIGATION

Leading Set (4)

Leading Juniors

Jonathan Steinert (4) Jonathan Steinert has a “brilliant intellect which he combines with a street fighter’s ‘never say die’ approach to litigation”.

Andrew Davies (4) Andrew Davies “Conducts cross-examination calmly and politely, but with dogged determination that would test any witness”.

Malcolm Sheehan (4) Recommended Malcolm Sheehan is a “formidable advocate”.

Adam Heppinstall (4) Recommended.

PERSONAL INJURY

Leading Set (4)

Leading Silks

Adrian Brunner (5)

Lawrence West (5)

Leading Junior

Jonathan Harvey (3)

Angus Withington (5) Angus Withington is ‘bright and thorough’ with ‘a superb skill of conveying technical and detailed areas of law into easily understandable advice’.

Malcolm Sheehan (5) Malcolm Sheehan is ‘bright and thoughtful and expresses himself clearly both on paper and in court’.

EMPLOYMENT

Leading Juniors

David Brook (3) “Ten out of ten” David Brook at Henderson Chambers who are also well respected in the field

Patrick Green (3) “extremely bright” Patrick Green at Henderson Chambers who are also well respected in the field

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE AND HEALTHCARE

Leading Junior

Jonathan Harvey (4)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Leading Silks

Charles Gibson QC (5)

Leading Juniors

Geraint Webb (5)

EU AND COMPETITION**Leading Silks**

Alan Dashwood QC (3)

ENVIRONMENT**Leading Set (3)**

Henderson Chambers provides “a sophisticated service reflecting the needs of clients in the context of complex claims”.

Leading Silks

Charles Gibson QC (3)

“A highly effective and forceful advocate”, Charles Gibson QC “knows group actions and environmental claims inside out. He doesn’t back away from a scrap”.

Lawrence West QC (3)

Leading Juniors

Oliver Campbell (2)

“A very effective right-hand man”, Oliver Campbell is “diligent, hardworking and always delivers on time”.

Toby Riley-Smith (2)

Andrew Kinnier (3)

INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE**Leading Junior**

Geraint Webb (3)

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**Leading Junior**

Geraint Webb (3)

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE**Leading Junior**

Jonathan Steinert (4)

Other Members noted by Legal 500**General**

Adam Heppinstall	Junior Counsel to the Crown – B Panel
Andrew Kinnier	Junior Counsel to the Crown – A Panel
Anna Burne	Junior Counsel to the Crown – C Panel
James Purnell	Junior Counsel to the Crown – C Panel
Malcolm Sheehan	Junior Counsel to the Crown – A Panel